

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee Minutes of Monday, August 30, 2004

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, August 30, 2004, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Council Member Susan Horne
Vice Chair Sandy Kane
Brian Rolston

Ann Bollinger
Terry Elvers
Gabe Kelemen

Ricky Obaugh, firefighter

Citizens present
Craig Lane

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna
Mark McCartney
Kathy Leidich

Press
Sarah Engel

1. *Election of officers:* On **motion** by Sandy Kane, **seconded** by Gabe Kelemen, **Liz Whiting was re-elected Chair** by all members present, with the exception of Liz Whiting who abstained. On **motion** by Gabe Kelemen, **seconded** by Terry Elvers, **Sandy Kane was elected Vice-Chair** by all members present, with the exception of Sandy Kane who abstained.
2. *Minutes:* On **motion** by Sandy Kane, **seconded** by Calvin Grow, the **minutes of the June 28, 2004 meeting were approved** as corrected to reflect that Kathy Leidich, Assistant to the Town Manager was in attendance, with Ann Bollinger, Terry Elvers and Brian Rolston abstaining.
3. *Welcome New Members:* The Committee welcomed new members Ann Bollinger, Terry Elvers and Brian Rolston and all committee members introduced themselves and their affiliations leading to appointment.
4. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment.
5. *Virginia Regional Transportation Association report:* Kathy Leidich updated the Committee on the trolley service initiative. Kathy Leidich reported the proposed route--from the Leesburg Corner Outlet Mall, past the County office complex on Edwards Ferry Road, N.E., down Heritage Way, N.E. to Fort Evans Road, N.E., East Market Street to Catoctin Circle, N.E. past the LCVA Visitors Center to South King Street, north to Loudoun Street, then west to Ayr Street, N.W. to West Market Street (to allow a stop at the Balch Library), and east along West and East Market Street to complete the circle—and that the 30-minute turn-around time was met with five (5) minutes to spare. Since this route will replace an existing route, as well as introduce the tourist-oriented trolley service, it was important to retain core, well-utilized stops on the route.

6. *Smart Trailer report:* Mark McCartney reported on the Smart Trailer deployment on Wilson Avenue, N.W., showing results averaging 19.7 mph.
7. *North King Street enhanced speeding penalty:* Mike Bomgardner reported that the staff backed the Committee recommendation of imposing an enhanced penalty for speeding on North King Street, but modified the northern terminus of the speeding zone to be Oakcrest Manor Drive, N.E. rather than the present location further north where the speed increases to 35 mph. The Committee backed the Oakcrest Manor Drive, N.E. cut-off as a logical break, since none of the residential properties north of that intersection front on North King Street and this should short-circuit any “gotcha” complaints regarding the proposed transition. The staff recommendation will be presented at the September 13th Town Council work session. Liz Whiting, Sandy Kane and Gabe Kelemen plan to be in attendance.
8. *Residential Traffic Management Plan update, etc.:* The Committee deferred this item to the next meeting. Calvin Grow will provide new members copies of Arlington’s policy and Fairfax’s “12-step plan” at the next Committee meeting.
9. *Request for marked parking lane on Catoctin Circle, S.W.:* Calvin Grow reminded the Committee that earlier speed studies confirmed that speeding on Catoctin Circle, S.W. from Dry Mill Road, S.W. east to South King Street exceed the threshold (31 mph or greater) for processing under the plan. Staff was looking at marking parking lanes along this stretch of the road to visually-narrow the travel-way, but recommended follow-up speed studies after school reopens. The Committee asked that speed studies allow correlation to the time periods when the speed limit is reduced to 15 mph in order to properly assess the true speeding risk. The issue will be reviewed at the October meeting.
10. *FY ’05 Budget Recommendations:* Liz Whiting reported that the Committee had requested \$190,000.00 in FY ’05 budget funds but that the Town Council had approved \$45,000.00, the original level funded in the FY ’04 budget. Rather than simply identify items previously requested that would add up to \$45,000.00, the Committee decided to take a fresh look at recommendations at the next meeting, and allow new members to become familiar with the history of requests and approvals.
11. *Dodona Manor parking issues:* Gabe Kelemen outlined problems over the past two summers with tour buses delivering large numbers of visitors to Dodona Manor, parking on Edwards Ferry Road, N.E. with their engines running for two to three hours, blocking residential and commercial premises, and leaving their passengers to negotiate a route into Dodona Manor along a

route with sidewalks only on the opposite side of the road and with no ADA-compliant access to the facility. The Committee asked why plans to construct a visitor center and public restroom wouldn't trigger Town site plan review and the need to provide ADA-compliant access, parking, sidewalk, etc. Staff indicated that if the facility has been continuously viewed as a visitor center, present plans for the new facilities may not be viewed as having "impact"—with regard to supporting public facilities, (*e.g.*, public road connection/improvements, public sidewalk, parking, etc.), that triggers the requirement to submit site plans for review. Nick Colonna and Calvin Grow will report back to the Committee regarding what site improvements/use changes trigger the necessity for submitting a site plan as part of Town zoning review.

12. *Historic District signs on Route 15 north of Town limits:* Gabe Kelemen reported that she had noted earlier reports by Mark McCartney that a number of motorists stopped for speeding entering Town on Business 15 from the north, reported that they were trying to find the Leesburg Outlets. She investigated the signage in the vicinity of the split between business Route 15 and the Route 15 Bypass and reported that the "Leesburg Corner" sign north of the split was hard to spot and that you would have to know in advance that it signaled an outlet to know which way to go. Liz Whiting pointed out that, opposite of the usual case; "Business Route" signage wouldn't let you know you were headed to the Historic District if you were looking for outlets. Calvin Grow reviewed a memorandum from Marantha Edwards to VDOT regarding signage clarification and will report to the Committee at their October meeting.
13. *Woodlea Manor, Greenway Farms and Bradfield Drive, S.W. (Country Club subdivision) citizen committee request from Town Council:* Liz Whiting outlined her discussion with Calvin Grow regarding the Town Council request for Committee recommendations to work with a subcommittee to address traffic calming in the communities of Country Club Estates, Greenway Farms and Woodlea Manor subdivisions. Liz Whiting presented a draft program for approaching the problems on a system-wide approach, which the Committee endorsed with clarifying recommendations (see attached). Liz Whiting will present the Committee recommendation at the September 13th Town Council work session.
14. *Committee member concerns:* (a) Gabe Kelemen (i) asked how the "quadrants" defining Committee membership are defined. Liz Whiting confirmed that Market Street and King Street form the axis. (ii) Gabe Kelemen also asked about the status of the Bypass fence. Calvin Grow noted that the support posts have been installed and that panels will be cast and added. He will update the Committee at the October meeting. (iii) Gabe Kelemen asked for enhanced enforcement of failure to yield to pedestrians in the West Market Street crosswalks at Wirt and Liberty Streets and also that

the Town consider removing the “Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalk” signage since it appears to give pedestrians a false sense of security. (b) Sandy Kane (i) asked for a report on the status of the Loudoun County proposal for developing a commuter parking lot off of Sycolin Road, S.E. Nick Colonna will report to the Committee at the October meeting. (ii) In response to Sandy’s inquiry, Calvin Grow noted that although a traffic signal at the intersection of Sycolin Road, S.E. and Lawson Road, S.E. is warranted, there is no present plan to install the signal with the present construction of turn lanes. He also noted that the entire intersection would be reconstructed with the Oak Lawn mixed use development. (iii) Sandy Kane also asked for enhanced enforcement of the skateboard prohibitions during First Friday Downtown events. (c) Ann Bollinger (i) asked if warning lights or signage of the “Traffic Signal Ahead” at South King Street and Meade Drive, S.W. could be provided. Calvin Grow indicated that there is little other than enhanced enforcement that can be done to discourage motorists from running the red light. (ii) In response to Ann Bollinger’s inquiry regarding the proposed alignment of Battlefield Parkway through the Meadowbrook development, Calvin Grow noted that the Town was expecting revised plans from the developers next week and would report to the Committee at the October meeting. (d) Brian Rolston asked what could be done to enhance safety of school children crossing Marshall Drive, N.E. from Autumn Willow Way, N.E. Mark McCartney will add the location to the selective enforcement list and report back at the October meeting (ii) Brian Rolston also asked regarding installation of “Watch for Children” signs on Newington Place, N.E. Liz Whiting suggested he review the policy in the Task Force report, then approach Calvin Grow with a suggested location that staff can evaluate. (e) Liz Whiting reminded the Committee that she hoped to host a get-together for both continuing and graduating Committee members at which a proper farewell can be given to Mr. Mervin Jackson and will get in touch later to solicit convenient dates.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:22 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, October 4, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.